

## Look Alike Anesthetic Cartridge (2/12)

We would like to bring to your attention the recent discovery of two similar looking anesthetic cartridges that could potentially lead to a Sentinel Event with the administration of the wrong local anesthetic. **3% Polocaine**

(Dentsply, York, PA) and **Septocaine**

(Septodont, Lancaster PA) anesthetic cartridges have a very similar appearance and inadvertently administering

one anesthetic as opposed to the other is a concern due to the different maximum allowable dose per the manufacturer, and potential adverse reactions that may arise with patients sensitive to epinephrine-containing anesthetics.



Anesthetic	Dose	Absolute Maximum Dose
3% Polocaine	6.6 mg/kg	400 mg
Septocaine	7 mg/kg	500 mg

Everyone on the dental team needs to be educated about the potential for **Look Alike** anesthetic cartridges. According to The Joint Commission (TJC) National Patient Safety Goal 03.04.01 EP 4, both members of the procedure team should visually and verbally confirm that the proper anesthetic has been loaded into the anesthetic syringe before administering the anesthetic. This verification should be by the label (i.e., name) and not the color band.